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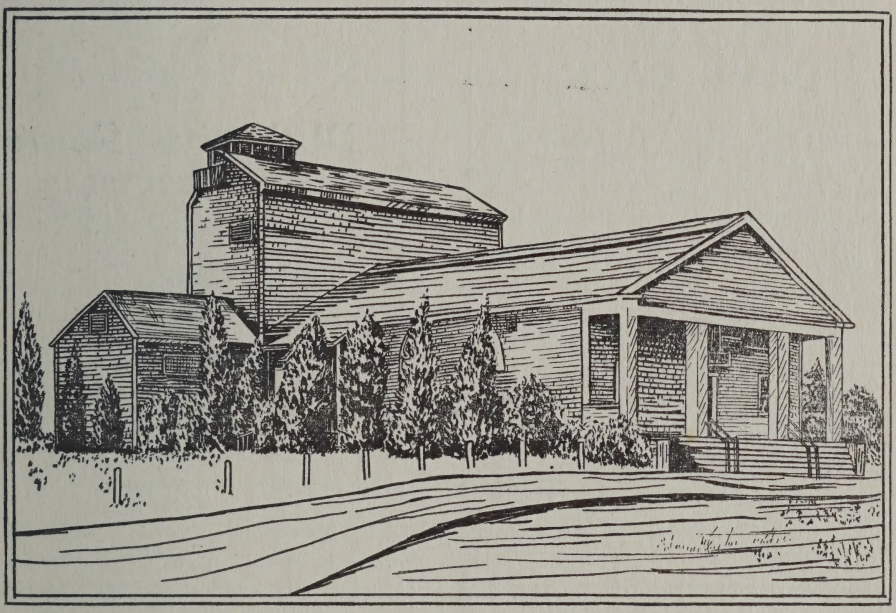

FOURTEENTH SEASON

Richard Aldrich

Director

WEEK OF JULY 8th, 1940

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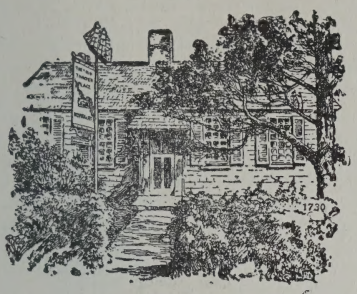

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A QUAINT CAPE COD HOUSE

TONIGHT'S PLAY

Ever since my first association with the Cape Playhouse I have hoped to be able to present Miss Cornelia Otis Skinner to the Cape Playhouse patrons, for in my opinion Miss Skinner holds a most outstanding position in our theatre today. It has been no easy path for the daughter of such an eminent actor as Otis Skinner towards success in the profession of her father, for critics and audiences alike have been hesitant in bestowing the same laurels of perfection before being convinced that those rare talents have truly passed on from father to daughter, but Miss Skinner's amazing career has brought her stardom not only in the theatre, but in its most difficult branch, for Miss Skinner has achieved international fame for her remarkable solo characterizations and plays many of her own authorship, in which she assumes the various characters in turn.

In selecting Mr. Behrman's "Biography" for Miss Skinner's Cape Playhouse debut my associates and I feel that we have the perfect combinations of star and play for such a rare blending of clever and scintillating dialogue with Miss Skinner's delightful comedy sense is all too infrequently seen in the theatre today.

Richard Aldrich

THE CAPE PLAYHOUSE, Inc.

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ARTHUR SIRCOM

Arthur Sircom, Stage Director of The Cape Playhouse for the past three seasons, holds within his most capable hands the full responsibility of presenting each Monday evening a finished and smooth production to Cape Playhouse patrons, with but seven days in which to rehearse, supervise all of the production details, and approve of every matter regarding the scenery, lighting and costumes. Such a task could never be safe in the hands of any man not thoroughly experienced in the theatre and particularly in summer theatre production. Following his graduation from Yale University and its excellent opportunities for students of the theatre, Mr. Sircom entered the theatre as an actor, appearing in a number of repertory companies including the famed Repertory Theatre in Boston. During the summers he toured with the well-known Jitney Players, the forerunners of the now famous summer theatres, and also toured extensively with Sir Philip Ben Greet.

Turning his talents towards the directorial field Arthur Sircom found a ready demand for his services, with the result that many of Broadway's biggest hits bore his name as director. Among the better known of these were "Springtime For Henry", "Men Must Fight", "Sailor Beware", "All Good Americans", "Penny Wise", "Whatever Goes Up", "Tide Rising", "What Every Woman Wants", and "Window Shopping". During the past winter Mr. Sircom has been active both in directing and in teaching, taking sufficient time off to supervise the staging of the musical comedy, "Nice Goin' ".

In addition to his work in the theatre Arthur Sircom spent several months in Hollywood, studying the technique of motion picture production, and while there directed the R.K.O. screen hit "Dangerous Corner". Other summer theatres with which Mr. Sircom has been associated are those at Milton-On-Hudson, Millbrook, New York, at Locust Valley, Long Island and at New London, Connecticut.

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NEXT WEEK'S PLAYS

For the week beginning Monday evening, July 15th The Cape Playhouse will present two of Noel Coward's best known and successful plays, originally included in his famed "Tonight at 8:30" repertoire, but until now not produced at Dennis. The feature production of the week's program will be the presentation by Richard Aldrich of Irene Castle in Mr. Coward's "Shadow Play", which includes several of his best known and loved musical numbers and frequent opportunities for Irene Castle to dance.

Certainly no lovelier and more romantic figure ever graced the American stage than Irene Castle—Mrs. Vernon Castle—decidedly the one woman responsible for the modern vogue of ballroom dancing and the charming gracious creator of many vogues of fashion. Today Irene Castle continues to dance and sing her way into your hearts—with new dance steps set to Noel Coward's incomparable melodies and with new and smart gowns to dazzle feminine eyes. No play could possibly as perfect as "Shadow Play" for Irene Castle's talent—for combined with the opportunities for dancing are scenes of Noel Coward's dazzling diaoglue—his characteristic wit and amusing slant on society. Supporting Irene Castle in "Shadow Play" will be a specially selected cast headed by the brilliant dancing duo of Harrison and Fisher, who only recently achieved enormous success in the Radio City Music Hall dance-satire "Amphitryon 40."

Preceding the presentation of "Shadow Play" will be the Noel Coward satirical masterpiece "Fumed Oak", considered by many critics to be the finest short play written in this century. "Fumed Oak" will be directed by Whitfield Cook with a brilliant cast headed by Murial Williams, Alexander Clark, Mabel Paige and Elizabeth Moore. Cape Playhouse patrons who have delighted to Miss Williams' work during this and the past two seasons will be more than thrilled by her work in this difficult and interesting role, created by Gertrude Lawrence a few years ago, as well as having the opportunity of becoming better acquainted with the unusual ability and talent of Alexander Clark, who The Playhouse is more than fortunate to have as a member of its permanent company this season.

There have been few times in the fourteen year history of The Cape Playhouse when the management is truly able to say that a week of more unusual appeal and extraordinary interest awaits its patrons than during the week beginning Monday evening, July 15th. Due to the enormous demand which has already started for seats for the engagement of Irene Castle in "Shadow Play" and of "Fumed Oak", it is strongly urged of all patrons that reservations be made at once, to avoid disappointment later. The regular Wednesday and Friday matinees will be held in addition to the evening performances.

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CORNELIA OTIS SKINNER

Cornelia Otis Skinner, the daughter of the distinguished actor-manager Otis Skinner, has achieved within her few years in the theatre a most enviable international reputation. Following her debut in her father's production of "Blood and Sand", Miss Skinner served a thorough apprenticeship in the theatre, playing small parts in Broadway productions and on tour, after which she decided to concentrate on a career of solo appearances in one-act plays and short sketches many of her own authorship. Her success in this field rapidly won for her the title of "the greatest single attraction in the American Theatre", and for several years carried her across the United States as well as to London and European capitals. Among her best known playlets are "The Wives of Henry VIII", "Edna His Wife", "The Loves of Charles II", "Empress Eugenie", and "Mansion On The Hudson". Among Miss Skinner's Broadway and touring appearances in full length plays are starring roles in "Candida" and "Romance", while her sole motion picture role was with her father in his first screen play "Kismet".

GERTRUDE LAWRENCE CHAPTER NEWS

Last Tuesday afternoon at The Old Hedge House in Yarmouth the first of the scheduled weekly teas of The Gertrude Lawrence Chapter of The American Theatre Wing for War Relief went off like a giant firecracker with a bang.

First of all, Gertrude Lawrence was there in the sunlit garden, flashing from group to group, now advising on the correct way to block a sweater, now supervising the sale of the War Relief emblems, compacts and cigarette cases, which, at that time, were officially placed on the market. Tamara, of THE HOTTENTOT company, was one of the first cigarette case buyers and immediately busied herself about filling up her new case. Murial Williams, of the perman-

(Continued on page 7)

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GERTRUDE LAWRENCE CHAPTER

(Continued from page 6)

ent Cape Playhouse company, and Jeanne Mason, pretty New York model, were exclaiming over the generous size of the mirrors in the compacts.

The Executive Board and the Working Committee, with their guests and friends, were very much in evidence. Great quantities of yarn were being wound from skeins held by obliging chair backs or by the hands of neighbors or new acquaintances. Finished sweaters were being exhibited proudly. We heard about one enthusiast, never before a knitter, who turned out a sweater in the interim between the Thursday organization meeting and this Tuesday tea.

Mrs. George A. Halman of West Yarmouth, treasurer of the Chapter, was seated before a long table very much pleased by the trend of financial affairs. Helen Rich, executive secretary and hostess for the teas, told us that Mr. George A. Halman, retired executive, has just completed a volunteer job on the workroom, which will be open from now on with someone always in attendance.

Since Miss Lawrence is leaving the Cape for the West Coast very soon, next week's tea will probably mark her last appearance hereabouts. Cornelia Otis Skinner, Arnold Korff, Alexander Clark, Richard Kendrick, Murial Williams, Arthur Sircom and other personalities will be present.

Everyone who is interested in this very worthy charity is cordially invited to attend.

CAPE PLAYHOUSE HISTORY

Looking back over the years—this week in Cape Playhouse history—

1927 — BASIL RATHBONE, JANET BEECHER, and VIOLET KEMBLE COOPER in "Peter Ibbetson".

1928—MINOR WATSON, HENRY FONDA (first professional appearance) in "The Barker".

1929 — BETTE DAVIS and JANET BEECHER in "The Great Adventure".

1930—BETTE DAVIS, CRYSTAL HERNE and SPRING BYINGTON in "The Constant Wife".

1931—WALTER ABEL and FRANCES FULLER in "The Animal Kingdom".

1932—SPRING BYINGTON and DUDLEY HAWLEY in "The Cat and The Canary."

1933—CISSIE LOFTUS, DUDLEY HAWLEY, and LUMSDEN HARE in "Criminal At Large".

1934—FLORENCE REED and DONALD MacDONALD in "Her Master's Voice."

1935 — DONALD BRIAN, TAMARA GEVA, and PHILIP HUSTON in "Accent On Youth".

1936—MURIEL CAMPBELL, JACK SHEEHAN, and RICHARD CARLSON in "Three Men On A Horse".

1937—DORIS NOLAN and PHILIP HUSTON in "Tonight At 8:30".

1938—SYLVIA SIDNEY and JUNE WALKER in "Pygmalion".

1939—ETHEL BARRYMORE in "Whiteoaks".

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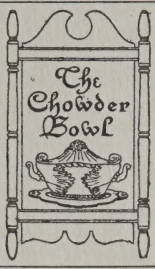
THIS WEEK'S MUSIC

OVERTURE: Gypsey Airs
1ST ENTR'ACTE: Cole Porter Medley, & "Stardust"
2ND ENTR'ACTE: Jerome Kern Medley, & Viennese Waltz by Gartner



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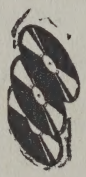
PAST PERFORMANCES

ARNOLD KORFF, known for a number of years as one of the finest actors in the European and American theatre, has over three hundred important roles to his credit. Although native born Mr. Korff has spent the greater part of his brilliant career in Europe where he appeared at the Burg Theatre in Vienna, as leading man and finally as producing director. Mr. Korff has made numerous tours throughout this country, once with Reinhardt in such plays as "Death", "Perophery", and "The Vast Domain", and later with Luigi Pirandello in "Henry IV". Other prominent appearances include repertoire of Shakespeare, Shaw, Schiller, Lessing, etc., and leading roles in "Biography" (original company),

(Continued on page 10)



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All seats reserved. No Sunday performances.
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Box Office open from 9:30 A.M. to 10 P.M. daily except Sunday.
Ticket reservations will be held until 7:30 evenings, 1:30 matinees.

Week Beginning Monday, July 8th, 1940

Richard Aldrich

presents

CORNELIA OTIS SKINNER

in

"BIOGRAPHY"

A comedy by S. N. Behrman

Staged by ARTHUR SIRCOM Settings by EUGENE FITSCH

CAST (in order of appearance)

Richard Kurt ..... RICHARD KENDRICK
Minnie ..... HELEN SALINGER
Melchior Feydak ..... ARNOLD KORFF
Marion Froude ..... CORNELIA OTIS SKINNER
Leander Nolan ..... ALEXANDER CLARK
Warwick Wilson ..... ROBERT WALLSTEN
Orrin Kinnicott ..... WILLIAM ROSELLE
Slade Kinnicott ..... MURIAL WILLIAMS

Scenes

The entire action takes place in Marion Froude's studio in New York City.

ACT I. About five o'clock on a November afternoon.

ACT II. Afternoon. Three weeks later.

ACT III. Two weeks later. Afternoon.

AT THE TWO PIANOS—EDWIN BILTCLIFFE AND PAUL ANDERSON

The Cape Playhouse acknowledges with many thanks for properties loaned—For furniture: The Treasure Barn, Dennis; The Yankee Trader, Dennis. For bric-a-brac: Twin Gables, East Sandwich. For Fortuny prints: Old Mill, Sandwich. For china: Colonial Candle Company, Hyannis.

Miss Skinner's gowns by Henri Bendel, New York City.

Miss Williams' clothes, furs, and accessories by Chez Madelaine, Boston and Hyannis; her hat by Filene's, Boston and Hyannis.

PAST PERFORMANCES

(Continued from Page 8)

"Age of Innocence", "White Horse Inn", "Lorelei", "Liliom", and "The Lady Has A Heart", in which later play Mr. Korff made his Dennis debut during the 1938 season.

ALEXANDER CLARK, son of the eminent Gilbert and Sullivan actor of the same name, comes to Dennis direct from a long run in the Clare Boothe hit "Margin For Error". Mr. Clark's debut was in the comedy "Golden Days" in which Helen Hayes played an important role. Other Broadway productions to his credit include "Merton Of The Movies", "Excess Baggage", "Victoria Regina" (2 years), "Biography" (original company), "The Judge's Husband", "Too True To Be Good", "Naughty Naught", "Merchant of Venice", "Abe Lincoln In Illinois", "The Dark Tower" and "Ode To Liberty". In London—"The Patsy", "The Tiger in Men", and "Kind Lady".

RICHARD KENDRICK comes to Dennis after a successful run in the popular "Stars In Your Eyes", prior to which he appeared in a succession of hits including "Angela Is 22", "Stage Door", "A Room In Red and White", "Spring Dance", and "Double Door". Mr. Kendrick's Dennis debut took place last week in "The Hottentot."

MURIAL WILLIAMS, who next week will establish a new record for Cape Playhouse appearances for an actress, made her Broadway debut in the comedy hit "Merrily We Roll Along", after which she appeared in such successes as "Tide Rising", "Three Men On A Horse", "Punches and Judy", and "Lorelei". Her Cape Playhouse appearances include "Lightnin'", "Stage Door," "Once Is Enough", "Susan and God", "A Successful Calamity," "Springtime For Henry", "Brief Moment", "Skylark", "Kiss The Boys Goodbye" and this season an important role with Gertrude Lawrence in "Private Lives".

ROBERT WALLSTEN adds another week to his long Cape Playhouse record which includes the 1937 production of his own play "Marriage Royal". During the past winter Mr. Wallsten toured with Ruth Chatterton in "Tonight We Dance",

(Continued on Page 11)

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PAST PERFOMANCES

(Continued from Page 10)

also played an important role in "No More Ladies", and saw his second play "Eight O'clock Tuesday" successfully produced. Other Cape Playhouse appearances—"Brief Moment", "Our Town," "Spring Meeting", "Easy Virtue", and "The Hottentot."

HELEN SALINGER, Australian born actress, made her theatrical debut at the old Tivoli Opera House in San Francisco. Since then she has toured throughout the world playing in such romantic locales as India, China, Japan, Java and Burma. In recent years Miss Salinger has appeared in "Information Please", (with Jane Cowl), "The Curtain Rises" (with Jean Arthur), "Biography" (original company) and "The Miracle at Verdun" (with Edward Arnold and Claude Rains).

WILLIAM ROSELLE, whose stage career started with Otis Skinner and Ada Rehan in Shakesperian repertoire has for a number of years been one of the theatre's most capable actors in old English comedies, modern comedies, and musical plays. In recent years his record includes—"Ziegfeld Follies" 1923-1924 and 1925, "The Connecticut Yankee", "Tonight at Twelve", "You Can't Take It With You", and "On Borrowed Time". This week he appears with the lovely daughter of the eminent actor who gave him his first part on the stage.

I WENT SHOPPING—

In spite of the rain and the wind with which we are concerned willy-nilly these days—we got about a bit, seeing many things we liked—odds and ends you'll like—the more so since you're in the summer shopping mood.

Dennis—and the little half-house shared by Gwenyth Waugh and John Shaw. This time we did our research among the dolls in THE DOLL HOUSE—fascinating—their homelands romantic and poignant, ranging from Indo-China to Mexico or from Java to Poland—the only

(Continued on Page 12)

Yankee Notions

GIFTS OLD AND NEW

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FRANK G. THACHER
ROBERT G. DOWLING

I WENT SHOPPING—

(Continued from Page 11)

country we found missing was Spain. Details of embroidery are beautifully done —accessories surprisingly complete—one of the peasant dolls, you'll find, is carrying tiny bits of REAL peat in the little basket slung over his back. Pieces of lingerie on the female dolls sometimes too many to be counted on the fingers of both hands—a little something from Palestine ALL dressed up.

Among the soft dolls, most engaging is the small elderly lady, wearing a bit of quaintly patterned black calico whispered to have been made during the Civil War—tiny knitting pins in her hands, a minute ball of yarn in her skirt pocket.

A few rare Polish and Czecho-Slovakian dolls still available—Disney originals exhibited last week may be on hand.

Arriving in Hyannis, we braved the lions so fiercely drawn up outside DANIEL'S DEN. Many clever gifts lurk within — the crystal-handled English spreaders for cheese or jam or caviar—dinnerware by Susie Cooper who carries on the Staffordshire tradition, adding worthwhile new touches to ceramic art—delectable colors, interesting shapes, textures pleasing to the touch. And, for a change, cigarette boxes are sounding a quite new note—looking like the ubiquitous cellophane, but really luxite, firm and green.

Just about the neatest trick for needlepointers is the celanese taffeta case, dedesigned to separate your wools by colors and prevent their tangling—finished off with a zippered pocket large enough for your canvas. And in the household with an active telephone the super-telephone index is THE thing—two alphabetical sections—one for tradespeople and one for friends—and a classified section for Hospitals, Doctors, Florists and the like.

After some meditation MAKANNA has whipped a length of coral silk jersey into the shape of a negligee finished off crisply and unexpectedly with pleated organdy—on the other hand, yards and yards of flesh chiffon combine to form frothier versions of the same general idea.

(Continued on Page 14)

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I HEAR THAT—

The biggest news event of the week of course was the Gertrude Lawrence-Richard Aldrich wedding! Not only did Cape Cod get a real thrill out of this but the entire theatre world—here and abroad was delighted. Personally we can't think of anything that could have pleased us any more—for we remember that dark night last summer when the "Neptune" pulled into the Yarmouth station and we stood close by Richard Aldrich when he first met the lovely Miss Lawrence. It was the Cape Playhouse production of "Skylark" that brought them together and now—ironically—it will be the coast to coast tour of the same play that will temporarily separate them. From what we hear Mr. A. will fly west at the close of the Dennis season meeting his charming bride in Denver. Parties galore, of course, followed the wedding which was very quiet with only a few knowing of the midnight wedding plans. The afternoon of the Fourth—also "Gee's" birthday—saw a gay reception at "Hope House on Hope Lane"—with the combined companies of "The Hottentot" and "Biography" joining with many local friends of the newlyweds in congratulations while the night following was the occasion of a delightful dinner party with Otto Preminger as host—after which Helen Rich, "Gee's" associate in the Gertrude Lawrence Chapter for British War Relief, entertained at her lovely Yarmouth house.

A warm welcome—framed in orchids—to one of our real favorites—Cornelia Otis Skinner. We cannot think of any other actress whose sincerity in her desire to create really important things in the theatre equal her's. Although we feel that she should continue in the theatre proper and appear in one of the many plays available to her—we cannot help but delight at her plan to return to her solo characterizations this fall.

Far be it from our mind to advocate the return of billboards and unsightly sign posts to Cape Cod—but we wonder how many of you will agree that we are woefully lacking in directional signs along the Cape—particularly along Route

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I WENT SHOPPING—

(Continued on Page 12)

The best dressed breakfast tray will enjoy making a midmorning appearance in organdy cloth and linen napkins designed all over with luscious-looking strawberries. Organdy appears twice more—once as an exquisite tea cloth upon which yellow and peach crocus blossome take turns in the applique—and again as a pearl-grey dinner cloth, delicately in bloom with blue and pink hortensia.

CHANDLER'S has had one eye on the sun and the other on you. Witness the California Matletex 3-piecers with brief, puff-sleeved bodices to combine smoothly with either the amusing, shirred shorts or the full skirts—over the white and color check of this cotton, sea gulls skim. Seersucker-like rayon forms the background of a certain slack suit—mustard shirt and royal blue slacks—both plaided to just the right extent with white.

HARPERS BAZAAR waxes enthusiastic about one bright red sweater-jacket, buttoned with gold eagles, ribbed at yoke and waist. Four pockets—short, cuffed sleeves.

Shop ahoy! D. D.

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THE CAPE CINEMA HOLDING "ALL THIS AND HEAVEN TOO" FOR SECOND WEEK

Premiere Showing of "My Love Came Back" Scheduled For Friday, July 12th

Recent visitors to the Cape will be pleased to learn that the Cape Cinema is continuing the showing of "All This and Heaven Too", through Thursday, July 11th. For the first time in the history of the Cinema, a film has proved to be a worthy enough attraction to warrant a second week's run. Many people will remember Miss Bette Davis when she first appeared as an apprentice in The Cape Playhouse and also assisted in ushering duties at the Cinema before she made her debut in the movies. It seems an odd coincidence that a starring vehicle of hers should be the first to ever be given an extended run in Dennis. Reports from the hundreds who have attended previous showing of "All This and Heaven Too", are enthusiastic about the portrayal of Miss Davis. Mr. Charles Boyer also receives praise for his great work.

A change of progam will be made starting Friday, July 12th, when the New England Premiere of "My Love Came Back". The comedy starring Olivia De Havilland and Jeffry Lynn, will be presented. Advance press reports have labelled this brand new attraction as "a sprightly comedy, full of amusing situations, chock full of laughs and ideal light hot weather entertainment." In addition to the feature a fine program of

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ANNOUNCING OPENING of

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I HEAR THAT—

(Continued from Page 13)

6? Certainly every town from Sagamore to Provincetown is brimming over with interesting landmarks and charming sights—isn't there some way in which these may be identified by dignified signs as we approach the various towns? We tried to separate the various Harwiches and the several Dennises the other day on a drive—as a result we found ourselves completely lost half a dozen times.

From Broadway come reports that business is still on the more or less "good" side—with eight hits running along smoothly. "DuBarry Was A Lady", "Hellzapoppin", and "Higher and Higher" hold up the musical end of the theatrical bill of fare, while "Ladies In Retirement", "Life With Father", "The Male Animal", "The Man Who Came To Dinner" and "There Shall Be No Night" continue to lead in the dramatic group. From Hollywood comes the disturbing report that the lack of good stories is holding up production plans more so than at any time within the past few years. Being a difficult one to please in a motion picture manner anyway, we wonder about this—can it be that our film tycoons are beginning to realize that their patrons might resent the butchering that has taken place with the few really fine stories they have filmed lately—and are wondering just what they had better try next? Despite this unpleasant outburst against the flicker producers we have seen several better than fair films lately—particularly the new Bette Davis-Charles Boyer "All This and Heaven Too", and the Irene Dunne-Cary Grant comedy "My Favorite Wife".

Glancing over our date book for the next week we are looking forward to dinners at The Coffee House, Southward Inn, and Cap'n Grey's, and luncheons at The Anchorage and The Viking—not to mention the smart after-theatre suppers at The Cape Playhouse Restaurant, surrounded by stars and starlings, with Henry Sarantis, of The Waldorf Astoria planning the menu. We'll be seeing you —here and there—

Until next week—

R. F.

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CAPE CINEMA

(Continued from Page 14)

short subjects will add zest to this bill. They are: A new Donald Duck Cartoon; a fun-filled Pete Smith reel; an adventure reel, "Away In The Wilderness," and the usual up-to-date Cinema World News. Daily shows are scheduled at 3:00, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Regular Cinema Summer prices are: Matinees, 55c; Evenings, 75c and 99c. Smoking is permitted in the Select Mezzanine Seats.

SUMMER SHOPS

In the West End of Hyannis is the largest strictly summer shopping section on Cape Cod. There are shops of every kind and size, from antique and gift shops to large stores with full lines of men's and women's clothing. The West End is a village in itself, with not only stores but restaurants, hotels, and a theatre.

THE CAPE PLAYHOUSE

WEEK OF JULY 22nd

JOE E. BROWN

in person in

"ELMER THE GREAT"

WEEK OF JULY 29th

Constance Collier

Ann Andrews

in

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